

The Institution of Engineers, Australia; Sydney Division
Engineering Heritage Committee

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEW TAPE LOG

INTERVIEWEE : Miss Nell Mackie

TAPE NUMBERS :
IEA SYD: SS1 & SS2

INTERVIEWER : Sarah Szacsvey

INTERVIEW DATE : 2 July 1998

NUMBER OF TAPES : 2

RESTRICTION ON USE : None

Interview log prepared using Sony TCM-5000EV cassette recorder

This interview is part of the Oral History Project of the Engineering Heritage Committee
of the Sydney Division the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

Tape : IEA SYD : SS1, Side A		
COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
001	Tape Identification	
004	Meeting the Cash family Friendship with Elizabeth (Ellie) Cash at Neutral Bay Intermediate High (3 years, 1930 to 1932), then at North Sydney Girls High School <i>(Miss Mackie's birth approximately 1919 or 1920)</i>	Elizabeth (Ellie) Cash Neutral Bay Intermediate High School North Sydney Girls High School
020	Nell Mackie attended Church Services at Christ Church Lavender Bay, where Frank Cash was rector	Christ Church, Lavender Bay Frank Cash
026	Occasionally invited to stay at the rectory overnight - going upstairs to bed , with views of the Harbour!	
038	A year to capture one particular photograph	
045	Rev. Frank Cash photographing the Harbour Bridge during its construction from the demolition of homes in North Sydney through every aspect of its construction	Reverend Doctor Frank Cash Sydney Harbour Bridge North Sydney
056	Foundations, arch,. joining the arch Describing the photographs taken - a complete record of the building of the Bridge	
071	Dr Cash's skill as a photographer - could have made a living of it. Nell was occasionally pleased to be asked to help him when developing (glass plates), and printing Darkroom was in Rectory	
100	Church paper, published monthly - often had Doctor Cash's photographs in it.	
105	Picnicking with the rectory children - Family photographs on all occasions	
113	Rev Cash climbing on Bridge to take photographs - from all vantage points.	
120	Marooned on a girder! (a crane driver's joke)	
132	Relationship with the Bridge workers (who featured in many photographs) - "just one of the mob"	
140	Rev Cash - very academic, but able to mix with people of all stations.	
148	Meeting with road workers - saving the loose picnic box.	
167	The Cash family - Mrs Cash quiet & very refined, active in Church activities. A talented china painter	John Cash Mary Cash Miriam Cash
179	Children - Ellie (born in Randwick), John, Mary, Miriam (born in Rectory in Lavender Bay)	
190	Activities - Luna Park Given 2 shillings each by Dr Cash, to spend on rides - River Caves, Speed cars	Luna Park River Caves
200	Playing in the garden, outings Evening - talking, playing music Church activities - bazaars - working on the cake stall	
214	Singing in the choir; Ellie was a District Visitor Enjoying the garden, and walks around North Sydney	
225	Made own entertainment - no television, many homes still had no radio!	

Tape : IEA SYD : SS1, Side A cont'd		
COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
228	North Sydney in those days - very quiet, infinitely less traffic - few people had cars	Miss Hale's Business College
	No traffic lights, more people about	
237	North Sydney the main shopping centre	
	Bands in the street on Friday late shopping night	
248	There were many more terrace houses - demolished to make way for Bridge	
254	Type of people - not affluent, manual workers, small houses, rather crowded together	
263	At weddings - Mr Cash would drive bridal party to church, change and perform ceremony, then drive party to wedding breakfast	
275	After finishing school - Ellie didn't finish Leaving Certificate - went to Miss Hale's Business College - clerical work	
290	Mary & Miriam - both science courses at University -. Mary became a cytologist (not a psychologist)	
307	John - wanted to go to University, but lacked one subject (French?) to matriculate. War began - he enlisted in RAAF the morning after war declared, and became a pilot.	
	On 16 August 1941 , over North Africa, was shot down over Mediterranean (aged 21)	North Africa
	Was excited about becoming a pilot, and looked fine in a uniform.	Pemberton, W.A.
342	Cash children encouraged to follow academic path.	
354	In working life - stayed in touch with the Cash family	
	Elizabeth married a forestry graduate, stationed in Canberra, then went to live in Pemberton, WA. Very difficult life, with primitive housing facilities (a camp oven!) Later moved to Melbourne - had 6 children.	
370		
385	End of Tape 1, Side A	

Tape : IEA SYD : SS1, Side B		
COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
002	Start of Side B	
005	Mary Cash - traveled (by ship) - met & married Pip (Philip), a member of ship's crew - took shore job & lived in Wellington NZ. 1 child - son Miriam traveled to London, taking some of Mr Cash's bridge photographs Was invited to deliver Photographs to Buckingham Palace (did not meet Royals). In UK, met Dr Perry - settled in Armidale, 3 or 4 children include twins - still living in Armidale . One of her daughters entered ministry, and has been appointed as cleric (would have delighted grandfather)	Wellington, N.Z. Buckingham Palace Dr Perry Armidale
028	Family organised building of John Cash Memorial Chapel, attached to Moore Theological College, Sydney. Governor Lt Gen Sir John Northcott laid foundation stone 7.6.1947. Opened 22.7.1950. Miss Mackie invited to opening Cash family had inherited some money, and put it all into building memorial	John Cash Memorial Chapel Moore Theological College Governor Lt Gen Sir John Northcott
047	Congregation at Lavender Bay - small, but hardworking and devoted - a matter not of quantity but quality Large Catholic congregation next door.	
058	'Parables of the Sydney Harbour Bridge' - photograph on front cover of Church Paper each month - Dr Cash decided to put them into a book, as a permanent record. - (Volume 1) Volume 2 planned, but difficulties regarding printing meant it never appeared. Copies of Volume 1 at Willoughby Library, Stanton Library, and Moore College	'Parables of the Sydney Harbour Bridge' Willoughby Library Stanton library Owen St, Willoughby
079	Evening services - much better attended when Rev Cash was showing lantern slides (church AND an evening out!)	
089	Doesn't know the fate of photograph and negative collection. Mr Cash had retired, and was living in Owen St Willoughby (in ordinary house) She didn't hear of Mr Cash's death until afterwards.	
103	Beginnings of school life - no interest in school, but went because she had to - didn't like school at all! In primary school - 19 mistakes in dictation!	
120	Looked forward to leaving school the day she was old enough - no career ambitions at all at that time.	
128	Attitude changed completely when she went on to high school . She sat for and passed high school entrance exam a year early - teacher recommended she should sit early for the practice.	
140	Responded so well to the pressure of preparation for exam, she changed her mind, and decided she wanted to be a teacher when she left school	
149	Started high school a year early - worked and studied hard	Cremorne Point
152	Sunday afternoon walks around Cremorne Point or Mosman Bay , as a break from study	Mosman Bay

Tape : IEA SYD : SS1, Side B		
COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
161	Sydney Teachers College - (part of Sydney University) Loved college life, and had marvelous lecturers Dr McRae, Mr Vincent, Dr Currie , many others Learned to put up with exams	Sydney Teachers College Dr McRae Mr Vincent Dr Currie
171	After some periods of practice teaching - quite difficult due to children's behaviour (trainee teachers called 'stewed ants')-	
179	Had once considered possibility of working in Botanic Gardens, but Botany was discontinued as a school subject, so she chose English and History	
187	Appointed as teacher - Country service - near Mudgee - very unhappy being away from home & friends	Mudgee
193	Was unfortunate - had to do four years instead of customary three, until Department found a city location to appoint her to. By that time she was less of a 'foreigner' in the country town, with more social activities, so fourth year was better than the previous three.	
203	Happy to be appointed to a high school - in country she had to teach any class from kindergarten upwards - irrespective of training Appointed to high school English & History - was very happy.	
209	Loved work, despite occasional 'difficult' principals	
213	As recreation - did modern ballet. This led to her being asked to train squad of high school girls to take part in mass dancing display at Easter Show (1000 girls). Squads trained at school, then combined for one rehearsal, before actual performances.	Royal Easter Show
234	Problems with crepe paper uniforms (especially in rain!)	
244	Given free tickets to show, and for some years after	
250	Enjoyed every part of school work	
255	Eventually, correction work load became too heavy a burden.	
262	Did a library course, with view to running a school library, for a temporary respite. At Willoughby Girls High at this time. Though she might have to move schools to find a library position, but existing librarian left, looking for part-time job. Miss Mackie had completed course, and was asked to take over Librarian's job at Willoughby.	Willoughby Girls High School
292	Library outgrew space - got job to design the extensions and supervise extension work	
300	Resources at that time were expanding from books into TV and radio programmes, computers, recordings etc	
304	Initially continued teaching as well as library, but eventually full time librarian. until retirement. She was at Willoughby Girls High from 1959.	
320	She compiled & wrote history of WGHS for school anniversary. Wrote Part 2 from materials left over after Volume 1, after she retired.	
343	Titled it "NEWS" - "News Extracts of Willoughby School"	Yvonne Kenny Amanda Thane
360	Famous ex-students included Yvonne Kenny , Amanda Thane(opera) , Rebecca Gilling, Joanna Lockwood (actors)	Rebecca Gilling Joanna Lockwood
380	Teaching career enabled her to fulfill ambition to travel to England - took an exchange teaching position, which paid for cost of travel, and for her time in UK (paid her Australian salary)	
382	Lots of luggage (took all clothes she needed with her to save her money for travel!) -	
397	Traveled by ship (taken to wharf by Mr Cash)	
400	End of Tape 1	

Tape : IEA SYD : SS2, Side A

COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
002	Start of Tape 2	
004	Sailing to England for exchange teaching post. Boarding - "She's going to marry an Earl" - wonderful service all voyage	
22	Problems with luggage (Lost between London and Newcastle - in Winter! - Found quite some time later)	
31	Problems with accommodation also. Ended up boarding with family of exchange 'partner'	
43	Teaching in Newcastle on Tyne- problems with unintelligible language led to amusing incidents	Newcastle on Tyne
62	Overwhelmed with hospitality. Traveling and meeting people was exhausting	
72	Invitation to 'supper' - at four p.m.!	
85	A small world - meeting cousins of a childhood friend from home!	Phyllis Vogelmann
97	Presented to the Queen at Royal garden party	
101	Enjoyed traveling to Continent - lived up to her expectations Loved winter weather, and snow	
115	Away for 15 months - traveled & saw more of England than most locals, and also Scotland, Wales and Ireland.	
120	Boarding ship - the Irish way! More language problems in Ireland	
145	In post war period - food rationing still in place in England Trip was in 1950 - 52, 'Surprising' suppers in Newcastle	
153	Travel to and from England by ship - basic accommodation - two berth cabin, with bathroom down corridor. No air-conditioning, doors unlocked	
163	Playing an angel in the Nativity play on board - with wings made of beer carton.	'Orcades'
170	Traveled on 'Orcades' - one of the better liners - 2-class ship, Kept in own part of ship except for church services in 1st class section - led by Captain. On board entertainments	
181	Dinner table partners - 'her' New Zealand family, and a budding comedian (enrolled at RADA)	RADA
188	Encountering rough weather - in Indian Ocean and Bay of Biscay (waves 30 feet high, and only 14 to dinner)	Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts
215	Traveling home on the 'Otranto' - a very stable ship.	'Otranto'
240	Travels by ship for every holiday, if she can - has done countless voyages, on ships from QE2 to a container ship (with passenger facilities, for up to 10 persons) . Enjoys traveling on container vessels. Describes facilities and traveling on container ship.	QE2
270	Frequent, good food on board. Sights at sea - whales, flying fish, and gas drilling rigs	
277	Reading technical books from the officers' library - flying the house flag upside down - on ACT 6	
283	Doing Panama Canal on ACT 6, in daylight hours.	ACT 6 (container ship)
295	Dramas in the USA, after first ship was cut trip short. Traveling from Charleston to Philadelphia and to New York - luggage lost again!	
313	Sailed from Philadelphia to New York, then to Panama via Houston	
332	Message on a T-shirt- "Tough times never last - tough teachers do"	
347		
377		
386		
403	End of Tape 2, Side A	

Tape : IEA SYD : SS2, Side B		
COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
002	Start of Side B	
004	Sailing on QE2 - finding one's way around, and home again! - learning to 'ride the system'.	QE2
020	Enjoyable companions at table,	
035	Wonderful meals and service, entertainment, lectures, library	
038	Hamburgers on the Lido deck	
041	Other ships - 'Crown Monarch', the new 'Oriana',	'Crown Monarch', 'Oriana'
063	Has traveled 3 times on QE2 - 1985, 1988, and one other	
	In 1988, by container ship to New Zealand, and home by QE2	
080	Touring arrangements. Dislikes bus travel. Enjoys the delights of train travel in USA.	Greyhound buses
105	Visiting ships in port - missed seeing the 'Marco Polo'	'Marco Polo'
	Watching ships sail from Circular Quay	Circular Quay
121	End of Interview	